



GOLD BUTTERFLY **OPEN HOUSE MEETING NOTES**

Where: Bitterroot River Inn Date: May 17, 2017 Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Montana Conf. room

Notes Taken by: Sara Grove

Attendees: Gold Butterfly ID Team: Nate Barber, Cheri Hartless, Amy Campbell, Cole Mayn, Jake Pintok, Jo Christensen, Mike Jakober, Ed Snook, Dave Lockman, Robin Taylor-Davenport, Deb Gale, Gil Gale, Jacquie Parks, Matt Werle, Sara Grove, Tami Sabol, Birk Roseman

Other Forest Service Representatives: Julie King, Bitterroot NF Supervisor; Rob Gump, Forest Planner; Amy Fox, Environmental Coordinator

Public: Shirley Sylvester, Michael Hoyt, Maggie Carmona, Kirk Thompson, Jason and Mark Hollis, Deborah Goslin, Jim Miller, Ruth Ann Hunter, Sheldon Hunter, Gary Milner, Taylor Orr, Kathy and Mike Jeffords, Dale and Judy Fowler, Jeff Lonn, Mike Doll, Jim and Marsha Waliser

SUMMARY

The ID Team members set up displays providing information about their resources in the Gold Butterfly project area and information about the planning process, proposed action, and purpose and need. Members of the public circulated around the resources areas and were able to discuss issues or resources that interested them in the Gold Butterfly project area. Twenty people attended the open house and five people left written comments.

Most of the written comments were concerned with dust abatement, traffic, and the effects of log haul on Willow Creek road. Some people pointed out that traffic is likely to increase when the roads are improved. Others believe that poaching will increase with the increase in traffic and changes in forest structure along the Forest Service boundary. There was a request to close NFSR 13136 after the project to limit access to private property, and to recontour the temporary roads after the project to inhibit poaching and reduce trespass on private lands. We received a comment about the health effects of smoke with a request that we consider alternative ways to dispose of slash other than fire. We also received a request that the gate accessing the handicap hunting area remain closed during the hunting season if logging occurs during that time. Two people indicated an interest in attending a field trip but did not provide any suggestions about where or the topic they'd like to discuss.

Impressions of the ID Team from individual discussions were that issues associated with the use of Willow Creek road – sediment production, higher traffic and hauling, and the suitability of the road for log haul. Matt received some heritage site and artifact leads from some participants and Nate was provided information about potential easements that would reduce some of the haul on the Willow Creek road. There were some suggestions that we consider leaving no treatment areas that would support wildlife travel corridors. Many people had positive impressions on the format of the open house and the engagement it elicited, and the number of resource specialists available to explain the resource conditions.

